

K12 SWP Round 7 vs Round 8 UPDATES (FY 2025-2026)

RFA Section	Page #	Round 7 vs. Round 8
GENERAL INFORMATION		
New Positive Considerations		R8 adds "Programs serving pupils enrolled at a local educational agency receiving Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier funding" as a positive consideration.
Middle School Program Requirements		R8 includes a dedicated and detailed subsection under "Eligibility Requirements" for Middle Schools (grades 7 and 8) , explicitly stating that proposed grant projects must focus on: ○ Career exploration and/or introductory courses ○ Address guiding students to CTE Pathways ○ Demonstrate collaboration between middle and high school programs
SCORING		
Positive Considerations		In R8, "Positive Considerations" is split, with 13 points for main considerations and 3 additional points for "Additional Positive Considerations," making a total of 16 points explicitly tied to these.
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS		
Problem Statement		Problem Statement – Prompt 1: R8 explicitly permits and encourages the inclusion of "Data sources for emerging fields" in addition to Centers of Excellence Labor Market Information to support regional needs. This was not addressed in R7. Problem Statement – Prompt 2: R8 specifically requests LEA's challenges aligned with the Regional Plan and LMI <i>provided by the Centers of Excellence</i>, which is a slight re-focus compared to R7's broader "sector/industry challenges or needs.

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Project Workplan		Project Work Plan – Partner Roles and Responsibilities: R8 provides a crucial clarification that "Internal LEA staff (data technicians, counselors, teachers, etc.) are not considered “partners” for the purposes of this application"
RUBRIC		
Overall Points		The overall maximum for Positive Considerations is reduced to 16 points. This is explicitly broken down into a main section (13 points) and an "Additional Positive Considerations" sub-section (3 points)
Positive Considerations		R8 adds "Programs serving pupils enrolled at a local educational agency receiving Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier funding" as a positive consideration. Vision 2030 New Pathways, New Applicant, and AI Literacy Focus: These items, which were awarded +3 points each in Round 7, are reduced to 1 point each in Round 8 and grouped under "Additional Positive Considerations"
Problem Statement		Round 8 adds more specificity, requiring the problem statement to "Utilize and include information about the wage rate and demand for skilled workers in the industries/sectors the grant project includes. Data sources for emerging fields may be included, in addition to Centers of Excellence (CEO), to further support local and regional needs". Round 8 also slightly refines the second item to specifically address the applicant LEA's challenges and their alignment with the SWP Regional Plan and LMI, whereas Round 7 focused more broadly on sector/industry challenges.